

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO CINCPACREP IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM SPEAKER OF HOUSE, JOSEPH ADA

1. THE SPEAKER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE JERRY ADA SENT THE
FOLLOWING LETTER TO SECRETARY KISSINGER. QUOTE

DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

ACCORDING TO REPORTS RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.,
TODAY, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO DETAIN INDEFINI-
TELY ON GUAM AND WAKE ISLAND CERTAIN VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
CONSIDERED "UNDERSIRABLES" ON THE MAINLAND. THESE "UNDER-
DESIRABLES," REPORTEDLY NUMBERING IN THE THOUSANDS, ARE
"BAR GIRLS, PROSTITUTES, AND OTHER OF QUESTIONABLE BACK-
GROUND."

SPEAKING OF THE THIRTEENTH GUAM LEGISLATURE, WE ARE
TOTALLY OPPOSED TO SUCH ACTION, IT CAN ONLY RESULT IN A
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MAJOR INCREASE IN CRIME, THE DESTRUCTION OF MORAL ATTI-

TUDES AND VALUES ON GUAM, AND RUIN THE IMAGE OF THE ISLAND BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

THE PEOPLE OF GUAM ARE WARM AND HOSPITABLE. WE HAVE

COOPERATED WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, IN EVERY WAY, TO ASSIST IN RELOCATING THESE UNFORTUNATE EVACUEES. BUT WE CANNOT BE USED AS A DUMPING GROUND FOR THOSE WHOM THE GOVERNMENT FEELS ARE TOO RISKY TO ALLOW INTO THE CONTIN-
ENTIAL UNITED STATES.

OUR LEGISLATURE HAS BEEN CRITIZED FOR TAKING A CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO THE REFUGEE PROBLEM. THE ONLY REASON FOR THIS IS THAT WE HAVE INSISTED THE STATE DEPARTMENT ANSWER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AS TO THE NUMBER AND TYPES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO WOULD BE DETAINED HERE AND FOR WHAT DURATION. WE HAVE NEVER RECEIVED ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS EITHER HEDGED OR GIVEN US VAGUE, CAREFULLY PHRASED NON-ANSWERS. FRANKLY, WE HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE BEEN USED OR MANIPULATED AS A PAWN IN THIS UNFORTUNATE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

GUAM IS, AFTER ALL, A PART OF THE UNITED STATES AND WE ASK ONLY THAT WE BE TREATED AS SUCH.

AGAIN, WE STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY ACTION CONTEMPLATED TO ALLOW "UNDESIRABLES" TO BE DETAINED ON GUAM, AND URGE THAT YOU GIVE IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION TO THIS MATTER.

SINCERELY,
JOSEPH F. ADA
SPEAKER UNQUOTE

2. WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE. QOUTE

DEAR MR. SPEAKER:

SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS ASKED ME TO RESPOND TO YOUR LETTER OF MAY 3, 1975. I AM SORRY THAT YOU BELIEVE YOUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PREVIOUS INQUIRIES HAVE RESULTED IN VAGUE AND CAREFULLY PHRASED NON-ANSWERS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT. SUCH HAS NOT BEEN OUR INTENTION. HOWEVER, THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUES AND THE MANY UNCERTAINTIES WHICH SURROUND THE VAST MIGRATION OF PEOPLE WE ARE CURRENTLY WITNESSING FROM VIETNAM SOMETIMES MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO SPEAK WITH GREAT CLARITY OR AS DEFINITELY AS WE MIGHT LIKE.

WE VIEW THE REFUGEE FACILITIES ON GUAM AS A TEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL SHELTER FOR THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM WHO FLED THEIR COUNTRY BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED THEIR LIVES WOULD BE IN DANGER IF THEY REMAINED IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY. WE HAVE INVITED REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO SET UP OFFICES ON GUAM SO THAT THEY CAN INTERVIEW AND SELECT REFUGEES FOR RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THE GUAM RESTAGING SITE CAN BE CLOSED IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND ONLY THOSE VIETNAMESE WHO THROUGH MUTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM WOULD MAKE DESIRABLE RESIDENTS WILL REMAIN IN GUAM.

WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEM OF POSSIBLY UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS FROM VIETNAMESE SOCIETY WHO MAY BE SEEKING TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE UNCERTAIN OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WILL FALL IN THIS CATEGORY, BUT BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THE INITIAL ESTIMATES WERE SOMEWHAT HIGH. UNTIL WE ARE ABLE TO DEFINE THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO WORK OUT A SOLUTION. WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO FIND REFUGE FOR EVERY PERSON WHO CHOSE TO LEAVE VIETNAM, AND DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE ISLAND OF GUAM SHOULD ABSORB RESIDUAL UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS TO ANY GREATER DEGREE THAN ANY PART OF THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.

I HOPE THAT I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ALLAY ANY SUSPICIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE ABOUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS WITH THIS PROGRAM. WE APPRECIATE VERY MUCH THE SUPPORT WHICH THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF GUAM HAVE GIVEN THIS MASSIVE AND COMPLICATED EFFORT AND LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO OUR PART TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORK FOR AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO ANY RESIDUAL PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT RESULT FROM THE SELECTION OF GUAM AS A RESTAGING CENTER FOR THE MAJORITY OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO WRITE.

SINCERELY,
L. DEAN BROWN. UNQUOTE.

3.PLEASE CABLE MODIFICATIONS OR APPROVAL WITHIN 24 HOURS.
KISSINGER

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